



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,619	12/08/2003	Burkhard Becker	L&L-10225	4277

24131 7590 10/10/2007  
LERNER GREENBERG STEMER LLP  
P O BOX 2480  
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480

EXAMINER
----------

CHOE, YONG J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2185

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

10/10/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/730,619

Applicant(s)

BECKER, BURKHARD

Examiner

Yong Choe

Art Unit

2185

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-15 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 10, 16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The examiner acknowledges the applicant's submission of the amendment filed on 08/16/2007. At this point, claims 1-20 are pending in the instant application.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-6, 8, 11-15, 18 and 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hess (US Patent No.: US 4,405,980)** in view of **Tipon et al. (US Patent No.: 5,150,471)**.

**Regarding independent claims 1 and 11**, Hess discloses a method for transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit, the method which comprises:

associating the hardware arithmetic-logic unit (Fig.1: ALU) with at least one table memory (Fig.1 AKU), the hardware arithmetic-logic unit (Fig.1: ALU) obtaining data required during a computing operation (Fig.1: instruction) from the table memory (Fig.1: AKU) and/or the hardware arithmetic-logic unit storing data computed during a computing operation in the table memory (col.5, lines 54~66); and

Hess does not specifically teach reading and/or writing from the digital processor to the table memory by:

preselecting a base address in the table memory dependent on a data type of data to be transmitted; computing a plurality of addresses according to a prescribed arithmetic computation rule in hardware by taking the preselected base address as a starting point resulting in a computed plurality of address; and accessing the table memory with the digital processor using the computed a plurality of addresses for consecutive read access operations and/or consecutive write access operations in the table memory.

However, Tipon et al. teaches reading and/or writing from the digital processor (Fig.1: processor 12) to the table memory by:

preselecting a base address in the table memory (Fig.1: base address register 18) dependent on a data type of data to be transmitted; computing a plurality of addresses according to a prescribed arithmetic computation rule in hardware (Fig.1: ALU 24) by taking the preselected base address as a starting point resulting in a computed plurality of address; and accessing the table memory with the digital processor (Fig.1: processor 12) using the computed a plurality of addresses for consecutive read access operations and/or consecutive write access operations in the table memory (col.3, lines 15~32 and col.6, lines 6~29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the base address as taught by Tipon et al. into transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a

hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess in order to increase processing speed (col.2, line 10). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the base address as taught by Tipon et al. with transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess to obtain the invention.

**Regarding claim 2,** Tipon et al. teaches storing a plurality of base addresses associated with a plurality of different data types in a base address register, the base address that was preselected being one of the plurality of base addresses; and performing the step of preselecting the base address by using the processor to set a selection bit associated with the base address (col.3, lines 20-26 and col.6, lines 6~17).

**Regarding claim 3,** Tipon et al. teaches prescribing the plurality of base addresses unalterably in hardware (see Fig.1: base address register 18 and col.4, lines 5-15: the base address register is hard-wired.).

**Regarding claim 4,** Hess teaches providing the arithmetic computation rule for computing the plurality of addresses in the table memory as an incrementation rule or a decrementation rule (col.2, lines 25~40).

**Regarding claim 5,** Tipon et al. teaches programming the base address (Fig.1: base address register) with the digital processor (Fig.1: processor 12).

**Regarding claim 6,** Tipon et al. teaches the digital processor, programming at least one information item selected from a group consisting of information relating to a number of data items being written to or read from a plurality of memory subareas

associated with the base address, information about a block size of data blocks, information about a decoding rate, and information about utilized convolution polynomials (col.3, lines 49~56).

**Regarding claim 8**, Tipon et al. teaches providing a second data type as trace back values computed by a decoder hardware arithmetic-logic unit; and with the digital processor, programming how many states the trace back values need to include (see Fig.1).

**Regarding claim 12**, Tipon et al. teaches said base address memory device is an external base address register designed such that in order to select the base address, said processor sets a selection bit associated with the base address (see Fig.1).

**Regarding claim 13**, Hess teaches said base address memory device is a read only memory (col.7, lines 1~5).

**Regarding claim 14**, Hess et al. teaches wherein said base address memory device is a rewritable memory that can be programmed by the digital processor (col.5, lines 54~57: RAM is a rewritable memory that can be programmed by the digital processor.).

**Regarding claim 15**, Tipon et al. teaches a configuration memory; said table memory including memory subareas; and said configuration memory for storing information selected from a group consisting of information relating to a number of data items being written to or read from a plurality of said memory subareas associated with the base address, information about a block size of data blocks, information about a

Art Unit: 2185

decoding rate, and information about utilized convolution polynomials (col.3, lines 49~56).

**Regarding claim 18**, Tipon et al. teaches wherein said table memory has a prescribed memory word length (col.5, lines 65~67).

**Regarding claim 20**, Tipon et al. teaches said hardware arithmetic-logic unit includes an equalizer hardware arithmetic-logic unit and a decoder hardware arithmetic-logic unit; said processor includes a data transmission connection to said equalizer hardware arithmetic-logic unit; and said processor includes a data transmission connection to said decoder hardware arithmetic-logic unit (see Fig.1).

4. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hess (US Patent No.: US 4,405,980)** in view of **Tipon et al. (US Patent No.: 5,150,471)** and in further view of **Stafford et al. (US Patent No.: US 3,833,888)**.

**Regarding claim 7**, Hess and Tipon et al. do not specifically teach providing a first data type of the plurality of data types as soft input values for channel decoding that are intended for a decoder hardware arithmetic-logic unit; and with the digital processor, programming how many soft input values per unit time can be stored in a memory subarea associated with the first data type

However, Stafford et al. teaches providing a first data type of the plurality of data types as soft input values for channel decoding that are intended for a decoder hardware arithmetic-logic unit; and with the digital processor, programming how many

Art Unit: 2185

soft input values per unit time can be stored in a memory subarea associated with the first data type (see abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the digital processor as taught by Stafford et al. into transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess as modified by Tipon et al. in order to provide an enhanced controlling unit in a data processing system (col.2, line 41~42).

Therefore, it would have been obvious combine to the digital processor as taught by Stafford et al. with transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess as modified by Tipon et al. to obtain the invention.

5. **Claim 19** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hess (US Patent No.: US 4,405,980)** in view of **Tipon et al. (US Patent No.: 5,150,471)** and in further view of **Serizawa et al. (US Patent No.: US 5,311,523)**.

**Regarding claim 19**, Hess and Tipon et al. do not specifically teach said hardware arithmetic-logic unit is a Viterbi hardware arithmetic-logic unit.

However, Serizawa et al. teaches said hardware arithmetic-logic unit is a Viterbi hardware arithmetic-logic unit (Fig.5 is a block diagram showing the structure of the Viterbi algorithm arithmetic).



It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Viterbi hardware arithmetic-logic unit as taught by Serizawa et al. into transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess as modified by Tipon et al. in order to obtain good error rate performance (col.3, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Viterbi hardware arithmetic-logic unit as taught by Serizawa et al. with transmitting data of a plurality of data types between a digital processor and a hardware arithmetic-logic unit of Hess as modified by Tipon et al. to obtain the invention.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 9&10 and 16&17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten claims 9&10 and claims 16&17 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and 11 respectively and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 08/16/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

**1<sup>st</sup> Point of Argument**

Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 13, the applicants argue that the base address register of Tipon is not accessed by using the addresses computed by the ALU of Tipon as recited in amended claim 1.

In response to applicant's argument that the base address register is loaded by the processor with a preselected, 32 bit base address over the data bus and the base address register and the ALU are hard-wired. Thus, the 32 bit base address can be accessed by the processor by using the 32 bit base address outputted by the ALU.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Point of Argument**

Regarding Applicant's remarks on pages 13 and 14, the applicants argue that no usage of the physical addresses stored in the register to access the base address register occurs in Tipon and no usage of the physical addresses by the processor is disclosed in Tipon but are recited in amended claim 1 of the instant application.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the equivalent claim limitations of "usage of the physical addresses stored in the register to access the base address register occurs" and "usage of the physical addresses by the processor") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

**3<sup>rd</sup> Point of Argument**

Regarding Applicant's remarks on page 15, the applicants argue that Stafford is not believed to disclose the usage of channel decoding or any specifications on logic implementations of the digital processor, thereby determining how many soft input values per unit time can be stored.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "the usage of channel decoding or any specifications on logic implementations of the digital processor, thereby determining how many soft input values per unit time can be stored") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

***Conclusion***

8. Claims rejected in the application

Per the instant office action, claims 1-20 have received a first action on the merits and are subject of a first action non-final.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to **Yong Choe** at telephone number **571-270-1053** or email to **yong.choe@uspto.gov**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Sanjiv Shah** can be reached

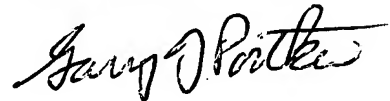
Art Unit: 2185

on **571-272-4098**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PMR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-irect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YC  
Yong J. Choe  
Examiner / Art Unit 2185

**GARY PORTKA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Portka", written in a cursive style.